

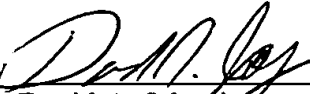
13 31. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein the time critical functions implemented by hardware operations include determining whether a particular frame was anticipated and sending an acknowledgement message corresponding thereto.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment places pending independent claims 1-2 in better form and the newly added claims dependent thereon are fully supported in the specification. An early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted

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I certify that the enclosed papers are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 25, 2001.


Margaret M. Hasson